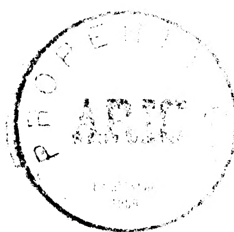
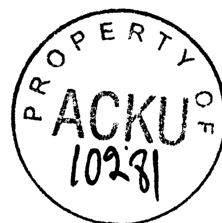
Afghanistan Women Council
(AWC)

G. P. O. Box 1215, Peshawar, Pakistan
Office: 53 Str. 11, J-1, Phase II, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan
Tel.: 00 92 – 91 – 812259 Fax: 00 92 – 91- 812138
E-Mail: awc2@psh.paknet.com.pk
Web site: www.afghanwomenssupport.org
Web site: www.afghanistanwomencouncil.org



Trip to Kabul Report

July - August 2002



Prepared by: Zahra Bayat
Deputy Director AWC

Motherland, National Unity, Human Rights

Date: September 6, 2002

To: AWC members and volunteers

From: Zhara Bayat
Deputy Director AWC

CC: All AWC members, United Nations Offices, Human Rights Organizations, Embassies, National and International Organizations and the world's media.

Subject: Trip to Kabul Report

Purpose of the trip:

1. To visit the high ranking Government officials and participate in the UN and NGOs coordination meetings, seminars and conferences about reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan.
2. To visit the Afghanistan Women Council's Hospital (Nazo Ana) in Shahar e Naw, Kabul and other AWC activities in Kabul City.

Participants:
Ms. Charo Shahani, the AWC volunteer, Mr. Muneer and Ms. Zahra Bayat.

Itinerary:
July 11, 02. I left Peshawar for Kabul. Ms. Charo and Mr. Muneer were in Kabul.

Findings:
1. General situation:
Security:
Security in Kabul was not satisfactory Because of the several bombs exploded in Deh Afghanan, Karti Char, and other parts of the city and Bagram airbase, in the last few months.
Rocket attack on the UN office in Jalalabad and fighting between the Afghan and Pakistanis in the Torkham boarder is a concern for the innocent residents in the region.
Security in the country in general was poor and fighting in Mazar, Samangan and Sari Pul, and Shin Dand was a bad sign for new returnees from Iran and Pakistan especially with arrival of cold winter in the country.
Death of 990 people in the north was a tragedy, which has been cleared to the UN and International community but ignored without any proper action. The criminals of the tragedy are on power and continued their warloardisem.
Finally armed attack on Mr. Karzi shows the security situation in the country, which is not satisfactory and need to understand that why and for how long the innocent people will suffer from such unfairness and no justice.
The two time fighting between Commanders in Khost killed 38 people.

Economy:

The three-year continued drought in the country made all the people very poor and either UN and the Interim Government have no plan for the improvement of the people's life.

No job has been provided to the people and no plan has been made for reconstruction and rehabilitation in the country.

The new published currency case a big problem in Takhar Province where warlords changing their ex notes to the US $ and rates of all required items in the market get high.

Refugees and Returnees:

The new returnees from Pakistan were in a very bad situation because some of them are living in damage houses and some in shops in Khair Khana area of Kabul City. Returnees have no proper place and accommodation and they are not satisfied from the security to go to the villages. Such situation made all food items expensive and rate for the food items in the city is very high and people have no way of income. Women whom came to Kabul has no job, those have job Afs. 1.8 million salaries can not fulfill their need. The Kabul City became crowded and polluted. The wither in Kabul gets cooler and the hard winter is going to arrive soon.

Most of the returnees are expected to go back to Pakistan, because there were no arrangements for the new arrivals and they need food and shelter at first. The three years continued drought case a lot of problems to the farmers and most of the returnees are farmers who have no water for their land, this is also another reason that most of the returnees stay in the city and abroad.

More than 400 Pushton families migrated to the Pakistan boarder in Quitta because of the continued fighting and tribal discrimination in Shin Dand areas. There are no proper camp facilities for the new arrive refugees in Chaman boarder.

About 2300 Afghans from various Provinces of Afghanistan returned from Pakistan and were placed in the camp in Nangarhar. Among all the returnees only 750 left for their won Provinces but the rest are still there because of the tribal discrimination, poor security and non availability of Job, food and irrigation water in their Province. It seems that most of them will go back to Pakistan in the winter.

The Iranian authorities pushing Afghan Refugees to Afghanistan without any proper notice and that cased a big concern to about two million Afghans in Iran.

Mr. Lakhtar Brahimi define the returnees situation in Afghanistan worst and he had complain from the responsible Administrations.

United Nation should give attention to the life of returnees in Afghanistan otherwise a big number of people will return back to Pakistan before the winter.

Political situation:

The government officials has no fund and everyone complain from the International community that they are not standing on their promises to help Afghanistan.

Mr. Khalil Zad is known as a special representative of Mr. Bush and he see everything as foreigner and has no control on the security situation in the country.

The interim Government of Afghanistan released 200 Pakistani prisoners but 427 Afghans prisoners in the NWFP Peshawar Jails do not understand about their future. 30 of these prisoners are children between the age of 10 – 13 years.

Mr. Hikmatyar's Jehad against the Americans has case a big concern in the country and in the Refugee community in Pakistan.

2. The Afghanistan Women Council (AWC)'s Hospital was visited and a meeting was held with the staff members. Their problems in various fields of their work have been solved and suggestions have been given for better communication with the UN and donor Agencies.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

We appeal to the Interim Government of Afghanistan, the international community, United Nation and the Government of America to support Afghanistan to improve the Government system by bringing the educated, scholars, scientists and politicians to the system for development of Afghanistan.

The international community should not forget their promises about the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan to the Afghan people.

The ISAF forces should respect the values of Afghans and should not interred to the houses of Afghans like the Russian was doing.

Peace should be bringing to the country and power should be taken from the warlords.

Life of politicians should be saved, freedom should be given and security should be provided to the media people.

The Human Right Commission in Afghanistan should have the freedom to report about all abuses of Human Rights in the country. The people who will work for this commission should be those who are known as a people not involved in any kind of activities against the Human Rights and discrimination among the Afghans in the past.

The Pakistan and Iran Governments should understand that Afghanistan stayed in drought in the past three years and people lost their fields, animals and irrigation system and their houses are destroyed and need sometime to go and rehabilitate and reconstruct the distraction. Therefore, they should not push the refugees to left their country and United Nation and the International community should drew their attention to this serious issue.

Political activities should not be banded and women should have an open environment for work in various fields of life.

Women should be provided with the significant share in education, politics and development and should have jobs within the government system in various positions.

The Afghanistan Women Council (AWC) always said to the world's people to help Afghanistan to go out of the complex which would be not good not only for the region but for the world and exactly that happened. Now is the time for the International community and the US government and UN to hear our voice and help Afghanistan for development of a good Administration in the country. Otherwise it will get worse and the warlords will continue killing, looting, raping and other shamefulness activities and the international community will be only the watchmen. We always said and will say that Afghan should build up their system by themselves, Not the US Government and any other Government will make any stable system in Afghanistan to keep the country away from such a complex in the future. We want a system to be build from each and every trip and religious and geographical areas of our country and that must be build from the most educated Afghans.

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AWC Main Office: House # 53, Str. 11, J-1, Phase II, Hayatabad, Peshawar.
G.P.O. Box No. 1215, Peshawar, Pakistan.
Main Office: Tel. 92-91- 812259
Fax: 92 91 812138
Teacher Training Institute: 823829
Aryana High School: 828054
MCH Clinic: 92-91-812115
Mental Clinic: 92-91-828082
Mobile: 0300 9599422
Res. 92-91-811261

